

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-24 (canceled).

Claim 25 (previously presented): An anode, comprising:
a particulate anode active material;
a conductive agent, and
a particulate binder containing at least one compound selected from the group consisting of copolymers including vinylidene fluoride and polyvinylidene fluoride,
wherein the binder is fused by heating such that the anode active material and the conductive agent are prevented from being covered with the binder.

Claim 26 (previously presented): An anode according to claim 25, wherein an average particle diameter of the binder ranges from about 30 μm or less.

Claim 27 (cancelled).

Claim 28 (previously presented): An anode according to claim 25, wherein the anode active material includes at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of one or more simple substances of elements capable of forming an alloy with lithium and compounds thereof.

Claim 29 (previously presented): An anode according to claim 25, which is formed by using an anode mixture slurry that includes: the anode active material; the binder; and a dispersion medium having a swelling degree of about 10% or less to the binder.

Claim 30 (previously presented): An anode according to claim 29, which is formed by using an anode mixture slurry, wherein at least the binder is dispersed in the dispersion medium, and then the anode active material is dispersed.

Claim 31 (previously presented): An anode according to claim 29, which is formed by using an anode mixture slurry, wherein an average particle diameter of the binder is about 30 μm or less.

Claim 32 (withdrawn): A battery, comprising:
a cathode; an anode; and an electrolyte, wherein the anode includes a particulate anode active material and a particulate binder containing at least one compound selected from the group consisting of copolymers including vinylidene fluoride and polyvinylidene fluoride.

Claim 33 (withdrawn): A battery according to claim 32, wherein an average particle diameter of the binder is about 30 μm or less.

Claim 34 (withdrawn): A battery according to claim 32, wherein the binder is fused by heating.

Claim 35 (withdrawn): A battery according to claim 32, wherein the anode active material includes at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of one or more simple substances of elements capable of forming an alloy with lithium and compounds thereof.

Claim 36 (withdrawn): A battery according to claim 32, wherein the anode is formed by using an anode mixture slurry including the anode active material the binder and a dispersion medium having a swelling degree of about 10% or less to the binder.

Claim 37 (withdrawn): A battery according to claim 36, wherein the anode is formed by using an anode mixture slurry, wherein at least the binder is dispersed in the dispersion medium, and then the anode active material is dispersed.

Claim 38 (withdrawn): A battery according to claim 36, wherein the anode is formed by using an anode mixture slurry, wherein an average particle diameter of the binder is about 30 μm or less.

Claim 39 (withdrawn): A method of manufacturing an anode comprising forming an anode mixture slurry including a particulate anode active material, a particulate binder containing at least one compound selected from the group consisting of copolymers including vinylidene fluoride and polyvinylidene fluoride, and a dispersion medium having a swelling degree of about 10% or less to the binder.

Claim 40 (withdrawn): A method of manufacturing an anode according to claim 39, wherein at least the binder is dispersed in the dispersion medium, and then the particulate anode active material is dispersed.

Claim 41 (withdrawn): A method of manufacturing an anode according to claim 39, wherein an average particle diameter of the binder is about 30 μm or less.

Claim 42 (withdrawn): A method of manufacturing an anode according to claim 39, wherein the binder is fused.

Claim 43 (withdrawn): A method of manufacturing an anode according to claim 39, wherein an anode active material includes at least one substituent from the group consisting of one or more simple substances of elements capable of forming an alloy with lithium and compounds thereof is used.

Claim 44 (withdrawn): A method of manufacturing a battery, comprising: forming a cathode; an anode; and an electrolyte, wherein the anode is formed by using an anode mixture slurry including: a particulate anode active material; a particulate binder containing at least one compound selected from the group consisting of copolymers including vinylidene fluoride and polyvinylidene fluoride; and a dispersion medium having a swelling degree of about 10% or less to the binder.

Claim 45 (withdrawn): A method of manufacturing a battery according to claim 44, wherein the anode is formed by using an anode mixture slurry, wherein at least the binder is dispersed in the dispersion medium, and then the particulate anode active material is dispersed.

Claim 46 (withdrawn): A method of manufacturing a battery according to claim 44, wherein an average particle diameter of the binder is about 30 μm or less.

Claim 47 (withdrawn): A method of manufacturing a battery according to claim 44, wherein the binder is fused.

Claim 48 (withdrawn): A method of manufacturing a battery according to claim 44, wherein an anode active material including at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of simple substances of elements capable of forming an alloy with lithium and compounds thereof is used to form the anode.

Claim 49 (previously presented): The anode of claim 25, wherein the binder is fused by heating to at least about the melting point of the binder.

Claim 50 (previously presented): The anode of claim 25, wherein the binder is fused by heating to at least about 180 $^{\circ}\text{C}$.

Claim 51 (previously presented): The anode of claim 25, wherein the binder is fused by heating to at least about 200 $^{\circ}\text{C}$.